

**Sustainable Food Procurement Conference, All Nations Centre, Cardiff  
23 March 2007**

## **Workshop report**

### **Education: producing knowledgeable consumers**

**Chair: Claire Fowler**, Education for Sustainable Development and Global Citizenship Champion, Welsh Assembly Government

#### **Caroline Davies, Caroline Davies**, CAFE Project

The CAFE Project covers Powys and aims to link children to local food production by means of school visits to farms, facilitating links with local producers, providing resources for learning about food and supporting School Farmers' Markets with the involvement of the pupils. It is funded by the Countryside Council for Wales and supported in kind by Powys County Council LEA which provides office space and direct links to schools. Farmers host school visits under the Tir Gofal scheme or on a voluntary basis, while the CAFE Project provides advice and support. The project recently piloted the first Countryside Educational Visits Accreditation Scheme (CEVAS) course in Wales, providing farmers with three days of training in working with schools.

For more information see [www.midwalesfoodandlandtrust.org.uk/cafeproject](http://www.midwalesfoodandlandtrust.org.uk/cafeproject). The CAFE Project works in partnership with FACE Wales, see [www.face-cymru.org.uk](http://www.face-cymru.org.uk).

#### **Sue Bowker**, Welsh Network of Healthy Schools Schemes

The Network is a partnership between health and education services and is active in all LEAs in Wales, covering all aspects of health: physical, mental and emotional. In June 2006 the Food and Fitness Action Plan was published, setting out a programme of action for children and young people in schools and the community. A booklet of case studies, 'In Perspective: Food and Fitness' was also published in 2006, and a 'Food in Schools Assessment Tool' and guidance on 'Developing a Whole School Food and Fitness Policy' is also available.

The Welsh Assembly Government is funding a Cooking Bus which this year will be at the Urdd Eisteddfod, and is working with Setpoint Wales to develop a Welsh version of British Food Fortnight. The proposed changes to the school curriculum included more cookery at Key Stage 3.

For more information see [www.healthschool.org.uk](http://www.healthschool.org.uk).

#### **Paul Stepczak**, Glycoch Communities First Partnership

Children at Cefn Primary School in Glyncoch, Rhondda Cynon Taf, got interested in gardening when they started working with the voluntary organisation Fernhill Landscape Improvement and Nature Team (FLINT), who have a community garden. The children responded very well to the older gardeners, and because of their enthusiasm for growing vegetables and salad,

the school decided to have its own allotment for the children to tend with support from FLINT. This was opened by Jane Davidson AM last September, and there are plans for the garden to produce vegetables for the school kitchen and sell the excess to the local community.

For more information see [www.shape-it.org/Community/CommunityServices/CommunitiesFirst/GlyncochCommunitiesFir/](http://www.shape-it.org/Community/CommunityServices/CommunitiesFirst/GlyncochCommunitiesFir/)

### **Discussion: what are the next steps?**

The following points emerged from group discussions:

- The value of community-based ‘animateurs’ who can help generate a local food culture, providing access to training and resources: the term ‘foodworker’ was proposed
- If parents learn alongside their children, the new knowledge is likely to stick better
- The dangers of short-term funding; we can’t undo 30 years of harm with 3 years of funding
- The value of networking between schools: seeing a good example by a peer can give people confidence to try something new
- The need for volunteers: not just because they are free labour but because they have a commitment to their local community already
- There is a danger in emphasizing new initiatives at the expense of proven methods
- We need sustainable projects that will build long-term capacity
- Time banking can help communities to find resources
- Legislation can be restrictive when we want to try out new things, for instance health and safety on farms is often misunderstood.
- Good to have a database of projects and ideas